

decisions, he has the satisfaction of finding that materials have been afforded him for forming an opinion of his own, while points of conflict and difficulty have been brought into clear relief, and sometimes (though this is not always possible) a path of safety pointed out. In this connection we may refer to the remarks made on *Makins v. Robinson*, *McVean v. Tiffin*, and other cases bearing on the effect of prior registration as between owners, mortgagees, and lien-holders (pp. 8, 9, 10, 56 and 57), which will be found to contain a valuable and suggestive discussion of what is perhaps pre-eminently the *vexata quaestio* of Mechanics' Lien Law. The author, though he speaks with caution on this point, seems to agree with the view expressed by Mr. Armour in his work on Titles (p. 166), that the line taken by recent decisions is more favourable to the owner and mortgagee as against the lien-holder than the intention of the Legislature. If such be the case, we cannot say that we regret it. Mr. Holmsted refers (p. 3), to an American case as establishing the proposition that, "when a lien attaches, the statute, being remedial, is to be liberally construed," but on a point of this kind we should have preferred a reference to such *dicta* of our own judges, as, for example, those which speak of this "remedial" statute as being "very oppressive upon the owners of property," and, "however equitable in intention, calculated to make one man pay another man's debt": *McPherson v. Gedge*, 4 O. R. 259, 261. Most persons, with the possible exception of Knights of Labour in the workshop and the Legislature, will agree with Mr. Justice Patterson in thinking that this Act should be construed "so as not unnecessarily to increase its unavoidable interference with the power of an owner to deal with his property, or of an incumbrancer to benefit by his security": *Bank of Montreal v. Haffner*, 10 O. R. 602.

There will be found in the work under review references to many English and American authorities, and to all important decisions in our own courts on the matters treated of, including some which are not reported, and such recent cases as *Reinhart v. Shutt*, and *Wanty v. Robins*, which though they had not appeared in the reports at the time of publication, are noted wherever appropriate. One feature which will be found particularly useful by the practitioner is the appendix of additional forms of proceedings. This appendix contains 35 pages, embracing a variety of forms which cannot fail to be of the greatest service, the value of which is further enhanced by a number of foot-notes on points of practice. In conclusion, we may say that this little book is well-printed and tasteful in appearance, doing credit in these respects to the author's publisher, who is apparently the author himself, and that it possesses the additional merit of a full and well-arranged index.